



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Course Options

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Course Options Statute

- § 118.52 Wisconsin Statutes
- Created through provision in state budget passed in 2013
- Replaced Part-Time Open Enrollment with Course Options
- Revised and expanded applicability of previous statutory provisions



Course Options Overview

Course Options allows students enrolled in a public school district the opportunity to attend up to two courses at any time at an educational institution at no cost to the student



Educational Institutions

- Public schools in a nonresident school district
- Charter schools
- Technical colleges
- University of Wisconsin System
- Tribal colleges
- Nonprofit institutions of higher education
- DPI approved nonprofit organizations



Funding & Cost Structure

- No funding provided for Course Options
- DPI directed to determine the means of calculating the cost of providing the course to the student
- Educational institution may not charge to or receive from the student or student's resident school board any additional payment
- Costs are laid out in Cost Table on website



Course Options & Youth Options

- Youth Options (§ 118.55) continues to exist in statute and is available to students
- No changes have been made to Youth Options
- Districts should continue to process and act on Youth Options applications as they have in the past
- Students may use both programs concurrently



Course Options Applications

- Use DPI Form PI-8900 Course Options Application
- Submitted to educational institution
- Due no later than six weeks prior to start date of desired course



Application Processing

- Educational institution, upon receiving the application, sends copy of application to student's resident district
- Educational institution and resident district do separate but concurrent application reviews
- Both must notify student of decision no later than one week prior to course start date



Educational Institution Review

- Does student meet institution's entrance criteria?
- Does student meet enrollment criteria for requested course(s)?
- Is there space available in requested course(s)?
- Randomly select from qualified applicants if more applicants than available space



Resident District Review

- Conflicts with student's IEP, must deny
- Does not satisfy high school graduation requirement under §118.33, may deny
- Does not conform to or support the student's ACP under §115.28(59)(a) if any, may deny
- District can't deny based on offering similar or identical course



Other Aspects of Course Options

- Online courses are included if offered by a qualifying educational institution
- Can attend two different educational institutions simultaneously
- Student/Parents responsible for transportation
- District of full-time attendance is considered the “resident district” for Full-Time Open Enrolled students



Other Aspects of Course Options (cont.)

- Full-Time Open Enrolled students may use Course Options to take courses in actual resident district
- College Credit in High School programs through UW System institutions no charge in 2014-15 with some limitations



Course Options Collaboration

- Course Options is parent and student centered and driven, but...
- Districts and schools should work closely with students, parents, and educational institutions to meet individual student needs and personalize student learning through Course Options



Other Collaboration

- Course Options compels districts to allow students to take courses in each other's district, however...
- Districts can collaborate outside of Course Options on shared courses and programs that improve student opportunities
- Districts can collaborate with other educational institutions on increasing student opportunities



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Questions?



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